



# Rainbow Ready News



Issue 2

Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 - Mobilization Information

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## Soldier to Soldier:



Well, its started . . . I know you have a lot of questions, concerns, nervousness, anticipation, and all the other feelings that any Soldier would have prior to such a huge and important mission. Trust and follow the orders of your leaders and live the ARMY VALUES. Keep them with you and wear them around your neck with your ID Tags. These values will keep you focused and help you get thru the tough times. Read them and live them...

**LOYALTY:** Bear true faith and allegiance to the United States Constitution, the Army and other Soldiers.

**DUTY:** Fulfill your obligations

**RESPECT:** Treat people as they should be treated.

**SELFLESS SERVICE:** Put the welfare of the Nation, the Army and your subordinates before your own.

**HONOR:** Live up to all the Army Values.

**INTEGRITY:** Do what's right, legally and morally.

**PERSONAL COURAGE:** Face fear, danger, or adversity (physical and moral)

Identify your "Battle Buddy" now! Get to know him or her, and make the commitment to trust each other, depend on each other and look out for each other. I will be there with you, and together add to the rich history of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division.

**RAINBOW!**

**"NEVER FORGET"**

CSM Richard Fearnside, 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

## RAINBOW CHAPLAIN

The Lord himself watches over you.

The Lord stands beside you as your protector shade.

The sun will not hurt you by day nor the moon by night.

The Lord keeps you from all evil and preserves your life.

The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

Psalms 121:vs:5-8

## Rainbow Training Should Help Save Lives

Story and Photo by: SPC William Albrecht

Soldiers from the Rainbow Division can expect to review more than common tasks throughout deployment training, they will receive instruction from the Training Support Division at Ft. Drum and Ft. Dix that will help save their lives.

"As we train we will continue to identify strengths and weaknesses, focus on them and correct when necessary", said CPT Phillip T. Esposito, 42<sup>nd</sup> ID Headquarters Company Commander.

Soldiers are reviewing land navigation skills such as movement using map association by terrain features and dead reckoning. They are also receiving training and validation on identifying, reacting to and reporting Unexploded Ordnance and Improvised Explosive Devices.

Weapons Pre-Marksmanship Instruction or PMI and qualification will begin soon and continue until every Soldier scores at least 26 out of 40 on their individual weapon. In addition to Qualifying, selected soldiers will receive familiarization a hands on education with the M-203 Grenade Launcher, M-240 Medium Machine Gun, M-249 SAW, and M-9 (9 millimeter pistol). According to CPT Esposito, "to truly qualify, Soldiers need to fire at night and in a simulated NBC environment". This means that NBC gear will be worn periodically throughout the training.

Every Soldier will be issued a properly fitted mask before beginning NBC training and validation. "This is the part which is going to keep Soldiers alive" said Sergeant Major Charles White, Food Service Sergeant Major, who recently completed the NBC "Train the Trainer" course. "We must realize what we're doing is real world".

Although some of our own 42<sup>nd</sup> senior NCOs will be certifying the training, the 78<sup>th</sup> Training Support Division will be doing the validation. They can be identified by the lightning bolt patch on their shoulder. "We have a lot of good training going on in the unit", said CPT Esposito, adding each Soldier needs to focus on looking forward to the next event and the next training opportunity".

While the majority of Rainbow Soldiers were busy with weapons and NBC related tasks, key staff leaders were attending Leader Development and Education for Sustained Peace (LDESP) classes. The LDESP exercise prepares units deploying to Stability and Support Operations, in accomplishing their mission in cooperation with Multinational partners, other US Agencies and civil authorities.

As the 42<sup>nd</sup> ID moves steadily and efficiently ahead towards deployment, CPT Esposito advises Soldiers to maintain a good attitude. "We are all in this as a team and we need to be mentally prepared for the long run."



SFC Robert Schmidbauer, HHC 42<sup>nd</sup> ID shoots an azimuth during land navigation training at Ft. Drum

## **NEW GEAR FOR RAINBOW SOLDIERS**

By SGT Brenda Ohrnstein

By the end of fiscal year 2004, the Army plans to put more than \$400 million into its Rapid Fielding Initiative or RFI to outfit more than 100,000 Soldiers deploying for combat.

Lessons learned from Soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are that current equipment is ineffective in harsh conditions. Because Soldiers will continue to deploy into combat on a regular basis, these concerns are now at the forefront. Army Chief of Staff, General Peter Schoomaker, has directed the acceleration of the Army's RFI. "The Rapid Fielding Initiative of a year ago is a lot different than the RFI of today," Schoomaker said. "We have moved a lot of money into that, and we are committed." He has also directed that every Soldier receive an RFI issue before deploying into combat. This initiative has the Army spending \$429 million before the end of the fiscal year. While select MOS's will receive a more specialized issue, all Soldiers can expect to see some vast improvements in their gear.

Some examples of equipment Rainbow Soldiers can expect to receive prior to going into combat are the Advanced Combat Helmet, an improved version of the standard Kevlar helmet, with a slightly smaller design to prevent it from interfering with Interceptor body armor when Soldiers lie in a prone position. The Infantry Combat Boot Type II and Improved Hot Weather Desert Boot, both feature a more rugged sole than the current issue desert boot. Silk-weight polyester long underwear designed to reduce heat stress and dry quickly during periods of activity. Fleece Cold Weather Bib Overalls designed to provide a lightweight but effective outer layer of protection against extreme cold as well as improved wind and dust goggles.

Although Interceptor Body Armor is not issued under RFI, the accelerated production throughout 2003 should ensure this key piece of protective gear is available for all Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to COL John Norwood, Project Manager for Soldier Equipment, "the goal is to provide about 840,000 sets of Interceptor plates to the Army by spring of 2006".

Once deploying Soldiers are taken care of, the RFI will continue to field the entire Army by 2007.

This Newsletter is provided by the 42nd ID Public Affairs section to ensure our soldiers stay informed. Input and submissions from command staff sections and Rainbow units are welcome. Contact MSG Lombardo at (315) 408-8544 or visit the 42nd ID Media Center on Fort Drum if you have questions or submissions.

## ***Credit Card Interest Reduction***

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act offers Soldiers the ability to reduce the interest charged on their credit cards (and other similar types of debts) during the time they are on active duty. However, you must meet certain requirements to utilize this benefit.

First, your entry into military service must have materially affected your ability to meet your obligations at the original interest rate (or as it exists currently). Next, your debts must have been incurred prior to your entry into active duty. If you meet both requirements, you can get your monthly payments and interest obligations reduced to 6% per year for the length of your active deployment. This reduction includes service charges, renewal charges, and similar fees that may accrue during the period of your military service.

Questions can be directed to the 42nd ID Legal Assistance Office at (315) 774-0062.

## **SPORTS NEWS**

### ***NBA – Detroit Pistons win Game 1 of Finals***

While the Lakers stumbled and strained through the second half of their first home loss in the playoffs, a few scattered cries eventually grew to a small chorus from the flummoxed crowd. Shoot! Shoot! Shoot!"

That's easier shouted than done against the Pistons' stifling defense -- and the Lakers have a whole new respect for the bruising Eastern Conference champions after Detroit's 87-75 victory in Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Sunday night.

### ***NFL -- NY Giants acquire new quarterback***

The Giants acquired the veteran quarterback they sought by signing Kurt Warner, a two-time NFL Most Valuable Player and the highest-rated passer in league history. The acquisition of Warner is the latest and potentially one of the most significant steps in the Giants' off season roster restructuring. He is the 21st veteran they have added through free agency or a waiver claim since Tom Coughlin became head coach. Warner will team with Eli Manning - the first pick in this year's draft, who was acquired by the Giants in a trade with San Diego - to give the Giants a prolific, high-profile tandem at the game's most significant position.

*RAINBOW READY NEWS is a Command Information product of the 42nd ID (M) PAO for division's post-mobilization training program.*

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